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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The current settlement before the court in the Microsoft anti-trust trial is an atrocity to the computing industry and to consumer choice.

When Microsoft appealed District Judge Thomas Pennfield Jackson's ruling, the Court of Appeals upheld his judgement that Microsoft violated anti-trust laws and is holding an illegal monopoly with their Windows operating systems.

Such a ruling by the Appeals Court cannot go unpunished, but the current settlement made between the US Department of Justice and Microsoft Corp. will utterly fail to punish Microsoft for their illegal monopoly practices.

I cannot count the times I have heard Windows users complain about instability and insecurity in Windows and comment that they want something better. However Microsoft's stanglehold ont he market and their proven illegal tactics have consistently crushed all quality competition (IBM's OS/2, Be Inc's BeOS, Apple's MacOS which despite three years of growing popularity still holds less than 10% of the home and business PC market and which, believe it or not, includes a number of Microsoft programs such as Internet Explorer an Outlook Express). Not only is Microsoft monopolizing the IBM-compatible PC market but they are also stifling innovation and competition in the Macintosh PC market by cutting off system preload deals for other web browser and email developers.

The American people are sick and tired of Microsoft and Windows but virtually powerless to do anything to change the situation because the US Department of Justice refuses to punish Microsoft for their proven illegal business practices. The US Department of Justice has sold out to big business.

Theodore Roosevelt must be turning over in his grave.